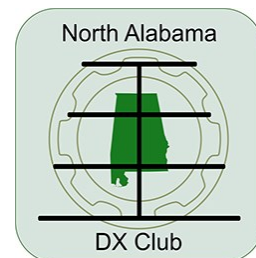


# The LongPath

December 2024 – Volume 48 Issue 12

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



## Contents:

## From the President

## Building a Feedline Choke

## A Moisture Problem at a Kilowatt

## The End is Near for the MFJ-934

## Six Meter F Layer Opening

## A Fantastic 6m Opening from EM65

## Upcoming DX Con- tests

## DXpeditions in December 2024

## Club Business and Announcements

## NADXC “Club Fact Sheet”

### Contributors:

AC4G

AG4W

K8KI

## N4BCD

N4NM

NG3K

W4WB

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## From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

As we watch 2024 come to an end, I want to thank you for being a member of the North Alabama DX Club (NADXC). Your continued membership and support have allowed our club to provide an enjoyable atmosphere for us all to be together this year to focus on one subject, DX. Your membership has allowed for us to host our annual NADXC Banquet and support DXpeditions that come along during the year by which we have become a respected DX club in the southeastern U.S.

As you know, we rely on membership dues annually as our primary source of operating funds. With this said, please remember that membership dues are being taken for 2025. The easiest way to pay is via PayPal. Please refer to the club's web page to make payment in this manner. You can also pay with cash or check, but you will need to contact our club Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Bob DePierre.

We are saddened that we have lost some of our members this past year, but are fortunate to have been able to enjoy their friendship and perhaps we will always remember the good times we had discussing DX, discussing one of our projects, or just merely getting to share our friendship with one another leaving memories that will en-

dures for a long time. We are also fortunate to have past members that have left us with equipment to sell which allows us the opportunity to have additional funds to operate in case we ever need them.

I am humbled and honored to have served another year as President of the NADXC. Since being elected to serve in 2023 and again this year in 2024, I feel I have gained knowledge and insight to better serve the club in this capacity for another year. This position has afforded me contacts in ham radio from across the southeast and up to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and across the world to other ham radio operators in distant countries that I never would have dreamed. I hope to put these insights to use as I continue to serve as President of the NADXC in 2025. I am glad we have elected a slate of officers that will continue to propel the NADXC forward as a respectable organization within the ham radio community. I ask that you, the membership, work with the 2025 Club Officers to make 2025 as successful as we have been in previous years in the NADXC.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to ending the year by participating in the NADXC Christmas/Holiday

## From the President (continued)

Get Together on Tuesday night, December 10, 6:30 P.M. at the Full Moon BBQ Restaurant, 1009 Memorial Pkwy NW, Huntsville, AL 35801, for an evening of enjoyment with our DX friends and families. We will induct our Club Officers and Directors into their positions. We will present

plaques for the 2024 year including, the LongPath Article of the Year, the NADXC Program of the Year, the NADXC DX'er of the Year, and the NADXC President's Award. We will talk about all of the DX we all have encountered recently and throughout the year. We will eat some good food and enjoy fellowship one with another as we close out the evening. Please come and participate with us in this event as we spend more time together and close out 2024.

## Building a Feedline Choke By Mark Brown, N4BCD

At the October meeting of the North Alabama DX Club, Dr Barry Johnson, W4WB gave a presentation on Common Mode Current and the use of feedline chokes to attenuate it. For me, this was a very timely presentation as I had the component parts on-order to roll my own.

This article will not go into detail on what common mode current is; there are many sources online, in books, and Barry's aforementioned presentation. Instead, I'll explain my rationale for the design and the actual construction. The parts list is included at the end for reference.

The antennas I'm putting up are: a Cushcraft X7 covering 20m, 15m & 10m with the X740 40m add-on; and the D3W covering 30m, 17m, & 12m. The X7 already includes a balun so that's not needed. The D3W is another story.

For the D3W, Cushcraft recommends 8 turns of coax on a 6" form. A study of the graphs of G3TXQ's measurements<sup>1</sup> of such a choke showed it to be inferior to chokes wound on ferrite cores. My opinion was reinforced when I saw Barry had included those graphs in his presentation. A 6" air core choke also presents a more significant wind load than a compact toroid.

The D3W covers a frequency range from

10 MHz to 25 MHz so I chose 12 turns on 43 Mix Ferrite as it seemed to have good attenuation to common mode across the needed frequency range. Considering power handling, I chose to use one core instead of two because I'll never be in a RTTY (high duty cycle) contest on a WARC band.

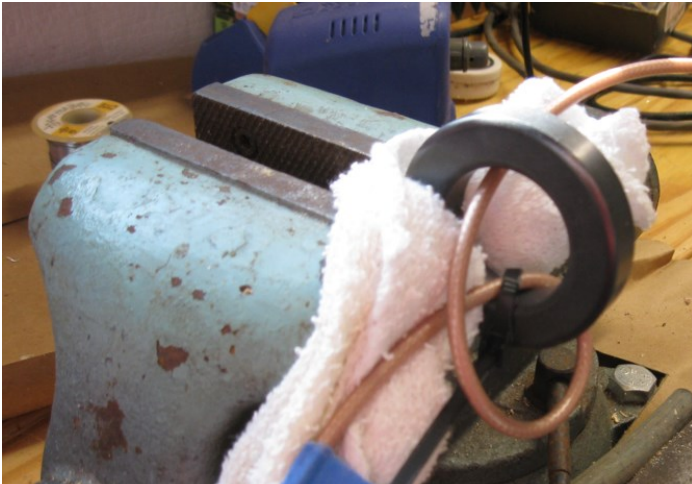
Coaxial cable wound on a toroid core is subject to a minimum bend radius so not just any cable will do. Foam dielectrics are out because the inner conductor will creep over time, resulting in breakdown. As Barry mentioned, good stuff isn't cheap. A suitable cable for winding a high-power balun is RG-303. This 50-ohm cable has a Teflon dielectric, double shielded with silver coated copper braid, and while about the size of RG-58 has a power rating of 1500 watts below 50 MHz. It also has a minimum bend radius of 1", perfect for winding a toroid. Not so perfect is the price: \$4.50 / ft from The Wireman.

To find the length needed to wind 12 turns of expensive coax, I wound 12 turns of RG-58 from the junk box, then disassembled it. I measured about 3 ½ feet so I chose 4' to allow for connector pigtails.

When it came time to actually wire the choke, I put the toroid in a padded vise to give me

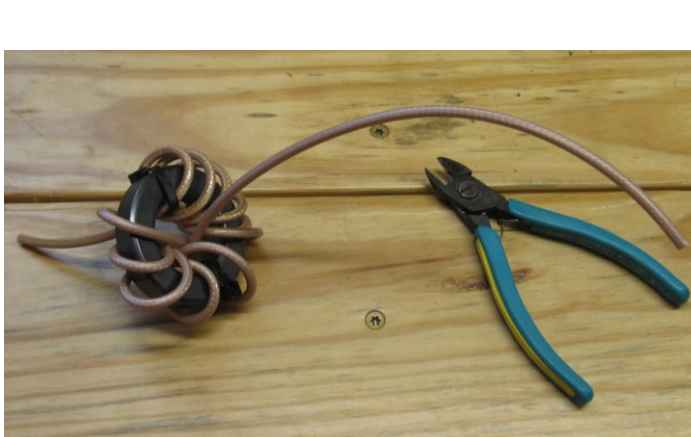
## Building a Feedline Choke (continued)

a 3rd hand. I secured the first winding with a black cable tie, then wound 6 turns in one direction. Next, I passed the cable through the diameter and wound the other 5 turns - that loopback counts as a turn. This put the input and output sides on opposite ends of the choke.



**Above: Toroid in a padded vise with coax secured with cable tie.**

**Below: Balun wound with pigtails**



This coax is not UV resistant so I mounted it in a cheap box from Home Depot with weep holes to mitigate condensation.

In production engineering there's the concept of 'guaranteed by design'. In this case, the choking impedance is well established in published literature, making testing with lab grade instruments unnecessary. Only rudimentary open & short testing are needed to confirm it will work as intended.

The bill of materials shows that the components of a quality choke add up quickly. Vendors such as DXEngineering and Balun Designs charge \$70 to over \$100 for well-made chokes. This article shows it's possible to home brew the same quality and save a few bucks if some things are kept in mind. First, a few special tools such as a cone bit are almost a necessity for drilling soft plastic and a drill press helps with precise drilling. Second, a well-stocked junk box for a few specialty screws and ring lugs will ease the pain of buying. Lastly, one's time & effort is a factor. I figure four hours were spent sourcing materials and actually building the balun. At the end of the day, the pre-



**Above: Drilling plastic box with a cone bit**

**Below: Using a drill press for precise holes**



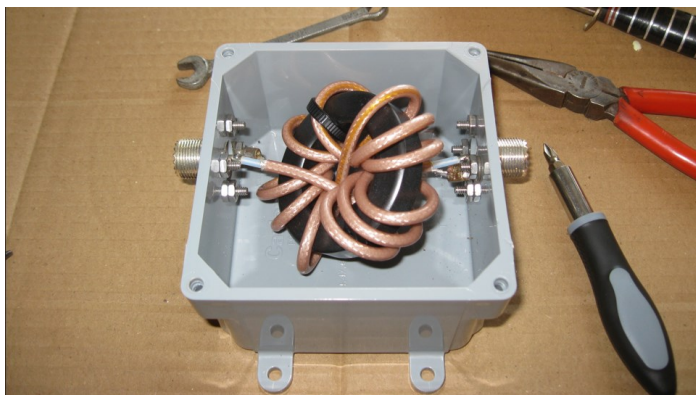


## Building a Feedline Choke (continued)

built \$100 chokes from a quality vendor seems very reasonable.

References:

1. <http://karinya.net/g3txq/chokes/>



Left: Balun mounted and soldered into the box.

Above: The completed unit

Below: N4BCD's Bill of Materials

**BOM Choke Balun for WARC band antenna**

Vendor	MFR	Description	# Reqd	MFG P/N	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Newark	FAIR-RITE	Ferrite Core, Cylindrical, 108 ohm, 12.7 mm Length, 25 MHz to 300 MHz, 35.55 mm ID, 61 mm OD	1	2643803802	\$ 6.81	\$ 6.81
Wireman	Wireman	Coax, RG-303, Teflon, per foot	4	RG-303/U	\$ 4.50	\$ 18.00
Home Depot	Cantex	Mounting Box, 4 x 4 x 2"	1	Internet #202043434	\$ 11.94	\$ 11.94
GigaParts	Max-Gain	Connector, UHF, SO-239	2	ZMG-7511-UHF	\$ 3.99	\$ 7.98
Junk Box	Dow	Cable Tie, Black	2	n/a	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.10
Junk Box	McMaster-Carr	Screw, 6-32 x 3/4", Stainless Pkg=100	8	91772A148	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.59
Junk Box	McMaster-Carr	Nut, 6-32, Stainless Pkg=100	8	91772A148	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.35
Junk Box	McMaster-Carr	Ring Lug, uninsulated, for #8 screw	2	7113K551	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.24

## A Moisture Problem at a Kilowatt

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

I typically run low power for my every day QSOs, but there comes an occasion where I must use my HF amplifier. This occurs when I choose to select the "High Power" (QRO) category during a HF contest or when I need a DXCC entity and just cannot break the pileup(s) running low power. There are other hams that run QRO all the time

because they perhaps are impatient and do not like to wait for a QSO or just merely do not like a challenge like I do. This is why I run QRP or Low Power most of the time. I guess I do things the hard way, but I guess I was taught to work for the things I get and this philosophy is instilled in me.

Recently, and probably around a few

## A Moisture Problem at a Kilowatt (continued)

months ago, I “cranked up” my HF amplifier to work a station that I needed in my desire to fill-in my band country slots that were lacking on a particular band, which was 40m. I noticed my amplifier worked fine on 40m until I began increasing the power output, then suddenly, my amplifier “Faulted Out”. I cleared the fault, tried again to make the QSO, and again my amplifier shut down due to a “Fault”. I began chasing cables, connections, and antenna switches until I was blue in the face, never to find the issue. I eventually made the QSO with low power after some persistence.

Later, I forgot about these experiences and continued to use the 40m Yagi on “Low Power” to make daily DX QSOs. Again, another contest came and I decided to run “High Power”. After running with 500 watts on 40m, I determined I needed more power to work a “rare” DX Station in a contest. After cranking -up the power, the amp shut down due to a “Fault”. Again, I went through the same scenario as before trying to figure out what happened. I decided it was the amplifier, so I changed out the amplifier and installed my back-up amplifier. Again, running lower power, the amp ran fine. Later, I needed more power to bust a pileup. You guessed it, the amplifier “Faulted Out”. I could only run 180W into the 40m Yagi, so I ran the rest of the 40m portion of the contest with 180 watts in the “High Power” category with my Yaesu FT101MP’s output power.

After the contest, I began troubleshooting to figure out what went wrong. The other bands tuned fine without any faults using my antenna switches, feedlines, and antennas tuned for the antenna -specific HF bands. Therefore, that led me to check my antenna switches and feedline out to the remote antenna switch again for my

40m Yagi, but all seemed functional. I decided to check something that I had not done that should have been obvious to check. I removed the feed line PL259 connector from the remote switch for the coax feedline that goes up my tower and feeds my 40m Yagi. What I found is shown below in Picture 1.

As one can look closely and see, a black and cloudy substance is present, cause by the HF amplifier when it arced, probably because of high moisture content or due to a high concentration of contamination where this connector mates to the outside remote antenna switch. Taking a closer look, one can see what appears to be a welder-like spot on the low side of the center conductor of the PL259. The PL259 was tight, so perhaps I was using a piece of old coax with an old connector and it finally “petered out”.



**Picture 1: Culprit high-voltage ARCs within feedline PL259 connector**

This issue masked itself from me for months until I ran high power. The simple solution was to cut-off the connector and replace it with a new PL259, which I have done. After doing so, I have been able to run full power without any issues. High voltage seems to always find a path where some component or thing will break down at the weakest point. In this case, either moisture and/or contamination, or merely old age of the coax/connector caused my issue to show up at the most inconvenient time. The moral of this story is to make sure there are no contaminants or moisture inside the feedline connection points of your antenna system. I guess it pays to run our amplifiers some to work out the kinks, specially prior to a major DX contest.

## The End is Near for the MFJ-934

By Dr. Barry Johnson, W4WB

Martin Jue developed many devices for ham radio, including a variety of antenna tuners and the innovative “artificial ground.” In the December issue of QST, José, CA4GIO wrote an article entitled “About the Artificial Ground,” which is a very fine summary of the technology and the history of the artificial ground. In the true marketing style of Martin, he named the device an artificial ground. Nevertheless, he sold lots of the first version, known as the MFJ-931, which became available around 1986 or 1987. A very good product review appeared in the April 1988 issue of QST. There are two versions of the MFJ-934, which are shown to the right. To my knowledge, the circuitry is the same in both, but the internal placement of its parts was changed to resolve a few occasional problems. HRO had the last of the MFJ-931 Artificial Grounds in stock, but they were all recently sold. HRO appears to be the last source of the MFJ-934, and has very few left.

The MFJ-934 is a very interesting device in that it has all the best features of the MFJ-941E Cross-Needle Antenna Tuner and the MFJ-931 Artificial Ground in a single, compact 10 5/8"W x 3 1/2" H x 8" D inch cabinet. As MFJ wrote “It is a 300-watt, full featured, general purpose (manual) antenna tuner that covers 1.8 - 30 MHz. It has a two range (30W and 300W), lighted Cross-Needle Meter that lets you read SWR, forward and reflected power all in a glance and a 4:1 balun for balanced lines. Plus, you get an efficient air-wound inductor, special high current/voltage 12 position inductor switch and two 1000-volt air-variable capacitors. It tunes all types of antennas and feed-lines, including random wire, coax and balanced lines.” Further, MFJ writes “The MFJ-934 is unique because it has a built-in artificial ground.



Current MFJ-934



Original MFJ-934

A ground matching knob lets you switch in inductance to bring an attached wire to a low-impedance current point to form an artificial ground. A push button lets you use the cross-needle meter to monitor for maximum ground current.” In short, it is a very feature-rich device in a space-saving cabinet.

I have enjoyed using my MFJ-931 for about 25 years when I have operated QRP in parks, etc. with a long wire antenna up in the trees. Now I have the MFJ-934 to make a more compact package to take into the field, now using the ICOM IC-705 and the Elecraft KXPA100 amplifier (100 W).

If you have an interest in owning one of these devices, contact HRO quickly as there are only a few remaining. I note that the MFJ-934 has shown up on QRZ.com, but not for a couple of years. When they were offered for sale, they sold quickly. Some years ago, it sold new for \$180, but HRO is asking \$300 now. Inflation and scarcity make the price rise, I expect.



# NADXC Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

6:30PM

Full Moon BBQ

1009 Memorial Pkwy NW, HSV



## About the NADXC

### 2024 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice President	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Director	Mick Bell, N8AU

### How to Join

Come to a club meeting or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))

### Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum of Information Explosion at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Participants can also join the meeting virtually via [Zoom](https://zoom.us).

This edition of The LongPath published by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

## Volunteers Needed for Meeting Presentations in 2025

Do you have a ham or DX topic that you enjoy and could share at one of our monthly meetings?

We are currently planning our 2025 schedule. If you are willing to share your passion with the club, either in person or over Zoom, please contact Fred, K3FRK at [dxK3FRK@gmail.com](mailto:dxK3FRK@gmail.com).



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By Steve Werner, AG4W

I expect we will see similar openings from December 15th until Christmas when the SFI is expected to be above 230. This is the opportunity of a lifetime. Most rigs have 6-meter capability. This is a fantastic way to add to your DXCC Challenge countries. If you have a goal to someday get over 3000 on DXCC Challenge you must include 6-meter countries and this is the easy way to do it. Tom, N4KG never worked many countries on 6 meters and almost made it to 3000. Even a simple antenna and 100 watts will get you started.

Do not get discouraged if you hear nothing on 6 meters. It is that way most of the time. Leave the radio on 50.313 MHz FT8 and keep an eye on the DXScape spots. Remember “You must be present to win.” Also, listen to the 2-meter repeater. Bruce, AC4G and I announce openings.

Left: PSKReporter map showing all of the stations hearing AG4W on Nov. 11th.





## A Fantastic 6m Opening from EM65

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

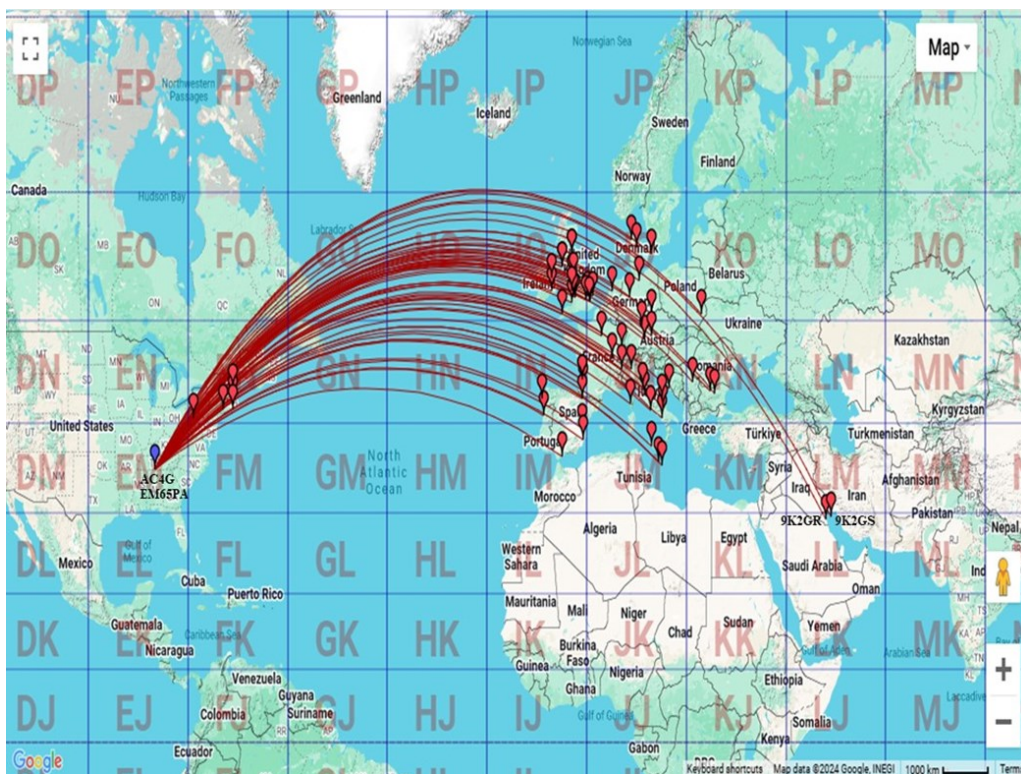
During the last North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) meeting, which occurred in November, I mentioned of a great European opening on 6m from the southern Tennessee/Northern Alabama area to many locations in Europe. I also mentioned that club members Steve (AG4W) in Huntsville (EM64), Fred (K3FRK) also in Huntsville (EM64), and other DX'ers in our area taking advantage of this wonderful opening. This opening occurred on November 11, 2024.

Below in Picture 1 is a screenshot of this opening based on my QTH in southern Tennessee, EM65. The screenshot below includes the different Maidenhead Grid Squares worked during this opening.

Many of my QSOs have been confirmed in Logbook of the World (LOTW). As always, there are

some stations who have yet to discover the convenience of using LOTW to confirm QSOs. Any of these that are unique will require additional time and patience to get these contacts confirmed with paper QSL cards. Among some of the countries worked were Italy (I), Scotland (GM), France (F), Spain (EA), Portugal (CT), England (G), Ireland (EI), Northern Ireland (GI), Kuwait (9K), Denmark (OZ), Germany (DK), Poland (SP), Czech Republic (OK), Croatia (9A), Switzerland (HB), Bulgaria (LZ), Malta (9H), The Netherlands (PA), Austria (OE), Corsica (TK), Serbia (YU), and the United States. Picture 2 is a PSK Reporter screenshot showing another view of stations hearing my signals in Europe such as F2DX.

My total QSO count this day included 64 QSOs via FT8 digital mode with an opening duration of almost three (3) hours. I worked fifty-three (53) grid squares and twenty-two (22) DXCC countries. My longest distant DX country was made with two Kuwait stations, 9K2GR and 9K2GS in Kuwait City. Reference Table 1, showing some statistics for QSOs made this day. If I haven't mentioned it, a few of these QSOs put me over the 100 QSOs count on 6m allowing me to file an application with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for Six Meter DXCC confirming that I have finally shown proof of working 100 DXCC countries on 6m. Yay! Finally,



Picture 1: Great European 6m Opening from EM65/EM64 in November 2024

## A Fantastic 6m Opening from EM65 (continued)

after having been active on 6m since 1996!

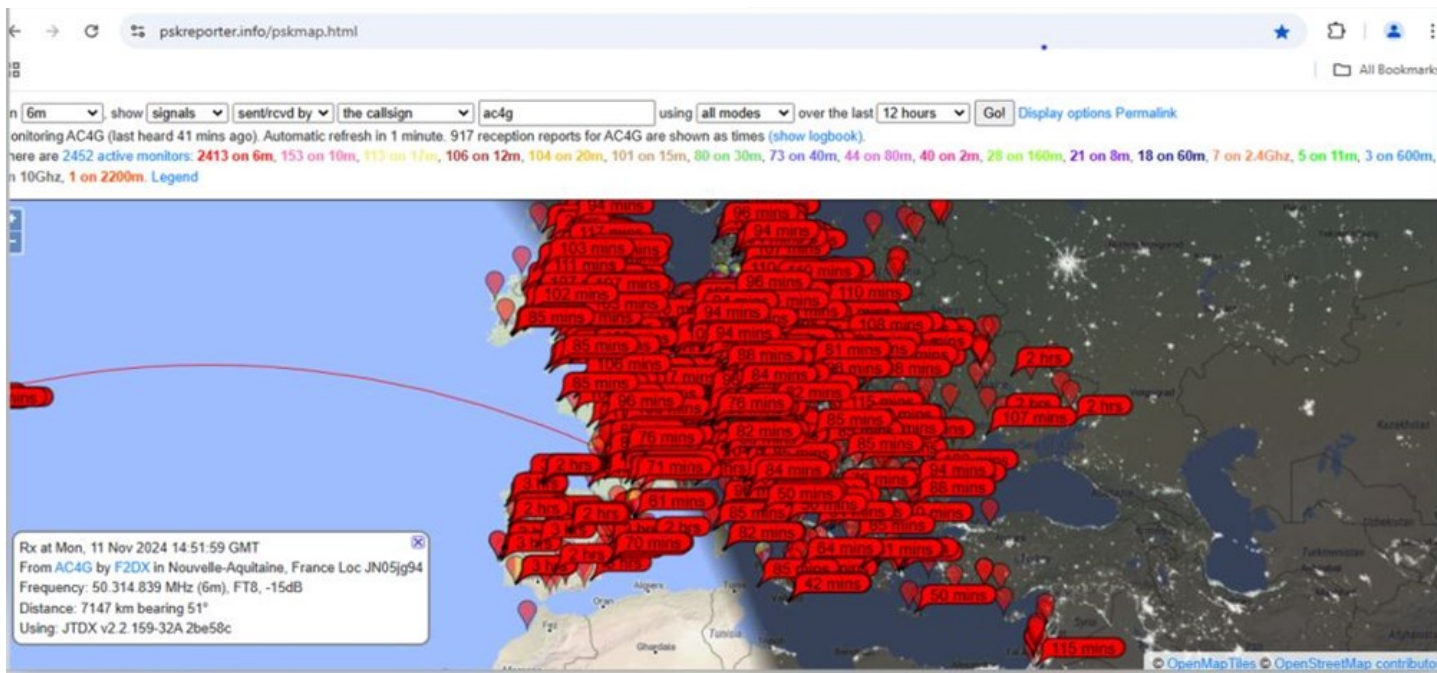
If you are considering becoming active on the 6m band, get started now. The solar flux index (SFI) over 200 allows for long distance openings. Since we are at the peak of the solar cycle, now is the time to become active because there should be more openings. With more days like the one I just described, one can achieve Six Meter DXCC sooner than later. Get involved now. Use one of your existing antennas to get on the air. From other presentations I have provided in the past, you must be on the air with a bare essential station in order to make QSOs. Good luck with your quest to make 6m QSOs and eventually obtain Six Meter DXCC. It takes, patience, persistence, and being active ["you must be present to win!"].

Table (right): Summary of the 6m DX worked by AC4G on November 11th.

AC4G EM65PA				
log start	11-Nov-2024, 15.22			
log end	11-Nov-2024, 12.40			
operating period	-3 hours -162 min			
operating time	-3 hours -162 min			
off time	0 hours 0 min			
Σ QSOs	64			
Digi	64			
Band	QSO	CW	Phone	Digi
6m	64	0	0	64
Σ Gridsquares	53			
Σ Gridfields	10			
Σ Countries	22			

ODX (km)	Call	Loc
11472	9K2GR	LL49MM



Picture 2: Europeans Receiving AC4G Transmissions on 6m – November 11 2024 (Courtesy of PSK Reporter)



## Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### Kalbar Contest, (SSB), 80 – 10 meters

Dec. 7, 0000Z to Dec. 8, 2359

Exchange: RS, Serial

See page 59, Dec. QST and <https://kalbarcontest.com/rule-english/>



### Pro CW Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 7, 1200Z to Dec. 8, 1159Z

Exchange: RST, Serial, plus "/M" if member of any CW club

See page 59, Dec. QST and [proradiocontestclub.com](http://proradiocontestclub.com)

### ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters

Dec. 14, 0000Z to Dec. 15, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus State/Province; DX: RS(T) + Ser. #

See page 59, Dec. QST and [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)



### OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 21, 0000Z to Dec. 21, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone

See page 59, Dec. QST and <http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=english>

### Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 21, 1400Z to Dec. 22 1400Z

Exchange: RST + ITU zone Croatian Stns. send county

See page 59, Dec. QST and [www.hamradio.hr](http://www.hamradio.hr)



### RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 22, 0000Z to 1159Z

Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long, (e.g., 57N 85E)

See [www.raem.srr.ru/rules](http://www.raem.srr.ru/rules)

### DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T), [+DOK or special code for DL or "NM" if not DOK member], plus Serial#

See page 59, Dec. QST or [www.darc.de](http://www.darc.de)



### RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 28, 0000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province

See page 59, Dec. QST and [www.rac.ca/contesting](http://www.rac.ca/contesting)



### Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 28, 1500Z to Dec. 29, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Char. Grid square

See page 59, Dec. QST and [www.kkn.net/stew](http://www.kkn.net/stew)



Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. See also: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>







## DXpeditions in December 2024

Reprinted with permission of Bill Feidt, NG3K



2024 Nov25	2024 Dec09	Central African Rep	TL8ES	LoTW	By IV3FSG fm Bangui (JJ94gi) 160-6m; SSB CW FT8 FT4 RTTY; QSL via IK2DUW
2024 Nov27	2024 Dec10	Singapore	9V1CF	OE3OGC	By 40-10M; SSB, perhaps FT8; spare time operation
2024 Nov27	2024 Dec11	Andaman & Nicobar	VU4A	Club Log OQRS	By VU4A fm Port Blair, Andaman Is; HF; SSB; FT8
2024 Nov29	2024 Dec13	Marshall Is	V73WE	Club Log OQRS	By SP9FIH fm OC-029 (RJ57pd); 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; verticals, quad, yagi
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec08	Sierra Leone	9L5A	LoTW	By team; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or F5GSJ Buro
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec02	Fiji	3D2NB	LoTW	By W7YAQ K7AR; 160-6m; QSL via W7YAQ; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec13	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	By K9EL K9NU W9MR W9AP; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4 RTTY; QSL via W9ILY (B/d), direct w/ 2.5 USD
2024 Dec01	2024 Dec10	Cuba	T46W	LoTW	By CO6XDX CO6XX CO6VV CO6SDY CO6RK CO6OU CM6EZ CL6AX fm Cayo Santa Maria (IOTA NA-204, FL02lp); 160-6m; POTA activity fm CU0292 and CU0298;
2024 Dec02	2024 Dec07	India	AU2K	Club Log OQRS	By VE3LYC VU2RS VU3WEW VU3DXA fm Kanika I (IOTA AS-179); 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; full QSL details at: <a href="https://au2k.weebly.com/log-qs.html">https://au2k.weebly.com/log-qs.html</a>
2024 Dec05	2024 Dec17	St Kitts & Nevis	V47NH	LoTW	By KC1NGS fm Newcastle, Nevis I (IOTA NA-104); 40-10m; SSB; QSL via KC1NGS
2024 Dec08	2024 Dec18	Br Virgin Is	VP2VMM	LoTW	By K2KW AG9A KD4D K5PI; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest; QSL via KU9C
2024 Dec13	2024 Dec19	Bangladesh	S21DX	LoTW	By 18 S21 ops fm Dhal Char I (IOTA AS-140); 160-10m; SSB RTTY FT8 (f/h); 4 stations; QSL via EB7DX
2024 Dec20	2024 Dec31	French Guiana	TO0J	LoTW	By OZ0J; 80-10m; CW SSB, but mainly FT8 (mainly f/h); QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Dec26	2025 Jan04	Dominica	J75K	LoTW	By FM5WD IV3JVJ IK3Zaq fm IOTA NA-101; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; QSL via IV3JVJ
2024 Dec30	2025 Jan03	Mariana Is	KH0	LoTW	By AJ6VJ as KH0/AJ6VJ fm San Roque; 40 20 17 15 12 10m; CW SSB FT8; 50w; vertical; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Jan04	2025 Jan05	Gambia	C5RK	EA7FTR	By F4GJE; 80-10m; SSB FT8 FT4
2025 Jan10	2025 Oct16	Palau	T8	Home Call (B/d)	By JA6EGL as T88SM and JE6KFN as T88XK fm Koror; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital
2025 Jan10	2025 Jan31	Benin	TY5C	LoTW	By F5NVF fm Godomey; 80-10m; CW FT8; 100w; wire; holiday stye operation; QSL via F5RAV direct

## Club Business and Announcements

### Financial Report by Bob DePierre, K8KI

The major financial event for October was the purchase from Regions Bank of a 3-month CD.

You might have noticed that bank rates are in a bit of turmoil at the moment. It used to be that longer CD terms brought higher rates, but not right now. The best rates are for the shorter-term types, and if it keeps up, I'll have to do these 3 more times over the next year. Our CD will only return an APR of 4.5%, but 4.5% on \$5,000 amounts to \$225, which we wouldn't have gotten at all had I not moved the money over. Note that I had to structure the spreadsheet a bit differently this time to account for this transaction. The other "minor detail" is that the interest we earn gets reported to the IRS, and has certain tax implications. So, I'll have to check how those laws apply to

us, and then do something about it. Certainly there won't be any impact for 2024, but it does bring up getting an 801(c)(3) certification, as did HARC 15 years ago. Anyone interested in pursuing it??

2024 NADXC Financial Status			11/30/24
Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	End November Month Totals
Year Start	9236	9,236	10,628.53
Dues In	1150	1,099	40.00
Recurring Exp	-1131	-975	
recurring expenses	-57	-57	
repeater elect	-116	-116	
web hosting/domain service	-20	-17	
repeater maintenance	0		
to HARC for Zoom	-50	-100	
use of museum	-400	-400	
Miscellaneous	-475		
DX Plaque	-70	-286	-215.56
Bank checks			
Other Transactions	-490	208	
Donations/equipment to sell	500	2551	
Dxpeditons	-700	-1450	
Picnic	-120	-341	
ARRL Bricks		-552	
DX Banquet	-170	885	
Huntsville Hamfest Donation		500	
venue	-700	-700	
food	-2350	-2378	
speaker+room+travel	-450	-369	
ticket sales	3650	4144	
raffle	400	413	
grand prize	-400	-382	
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses	-200	-237	
insurance	-120	-106	
Purchase CD			-5,000.00
Year End Bank Balance	8,595	10,452.97	5,452.97
Other Asset 3-month CD			5,000.00
Total Assets			10,452.97

## November 2024 Meeting Minutes

### by Bob DePierre, K8KI

Bruce/AC4G opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

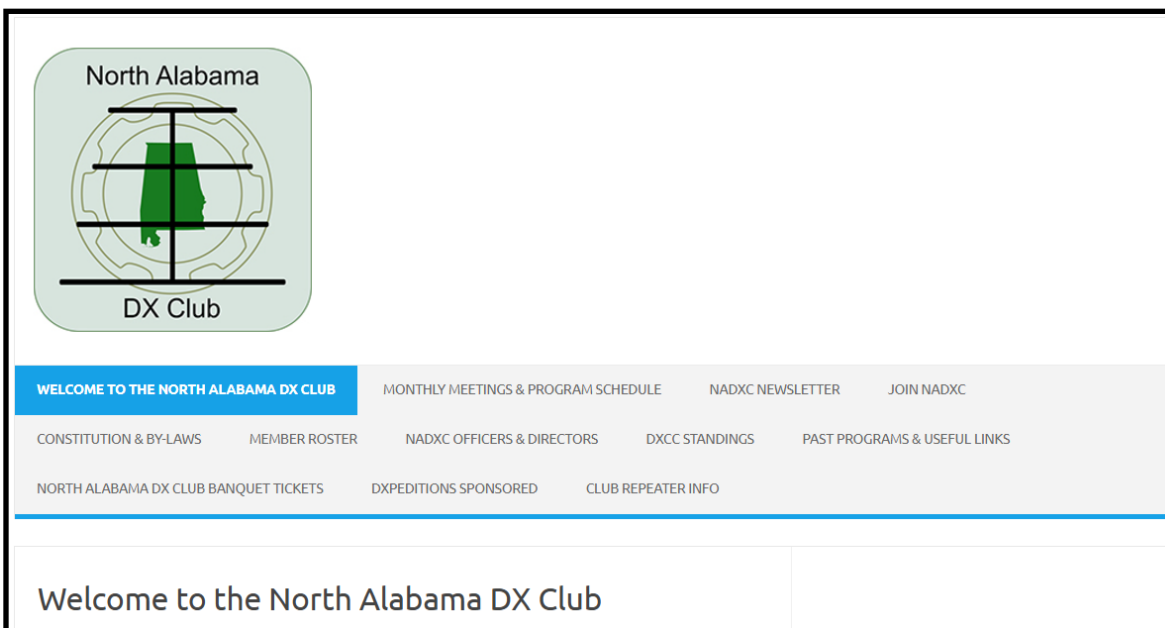
- The sign in sheet showed 18 members present, plus another 8 on Zoom. We were especially pleased to see Johnny/KR4F out of the hospital and in attendance with his daughter, Jennifer.
- The previous minutes and budget were approved, as well as authority to purchase a CD from the bank.
- Our next DXpedition funding cycle will start in 2025.
- The club used to have a volunteer who boxed and sent DX cards to the ARRL bureau. Bruce would like to start it up again if there is sufficient interest. Bob/K8KI will take care of the ARRL costs and shipping if we can find another volunteer to gather and box them up.
- Fred/K3FRK asked for members to volunteer now for club presentations for 2025.
- Bob/K8KI asked for volunteers to help put up the museum's X7 antenna. Norm/WA4ZXV, John/N5DF, Billy/KM4BGF, Bruce/AC4G, and Fred/K3FRK volunteered. The crane will arrive for the work on Dec 3.
- All enjoyed the club picnic. We had about 5 stations operating at the event, and the weather was great.
- Barry/WA4HR requested volunteers to help with Mike Rozar's (N4CNZ) new antenna, which should go up in December.
- Barry Johnson/W4WB's provided the presentation, titled "Common Mode Currents on Antennas."

## NADXC Club Website

The NADXC Club website, located at [www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org), is a useful resource for club members. In addition to offering an electronic pay-

ment method for annual dues and banquet tickets, the website contains information about how to connect to the club repeater, a list of members,

members' current DXCC (mixed) and DXCC Challenge standings, past editions of the LongPath, a list of DXpeditions sponsored by the club, a schedule of upcoming meeting programs, and the club's Constitution and Bylaws.



Above: The NADXC website's top ribbon contains links to pages with a variety of helpful info.



## North Alabama DX Club (NADXC)

### “Club Fact Sheet”

**Who We Are:** NADXC is a group of active radio amateurs with a deep compassion for working DX, contesting, and other aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club. NADXC members are active in all facets of DX and contesting. The NADXC also donates funding for various DXpeditions all over the world. The NADXC sponsors a DX Banquet in mid-August of every year in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. NADXC members moderate various programs at club meetings and during the Huntsville Hamfest, covering amateur radio technical and operating topics for all to learn and enjoy. The NADXC sponsors a prestigious award at the end of year for the most deserving DXer of the Year from the NADXC club.

**DX Funding Policy:** The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the NADXC website and in the “Longpath” newsletter.

**Club History:** The NADXC was organized in December 1966 by a group of 12 charter members. The original constitution was adopted and signed on December 19, 1966. The first chairman was Dan Whitsett, W4BRE (SK). In the early-1970's, the NADXC was custodian of the W4, K4 QSL Bureau which became such a huge undertaking that it eventually was passed to other larger clubs. In January of 1977, the club bought a VHF repeater for sharing DX spots and hosting a weekly net on Wednesday nights. The repeater was located on Redstone Arsenal, Weeden Mountain using the frequencies of 147.91/147.31 MHz on two meters. Today, the repeater has been relocated and utilizes the frequencies of 147.90/147.30 MHz, with a callsign of W4QB. The weekly net has been discontinued. In 1980, the club started the monthly newsletter known as the “Longpath” which currently continues to be produced every month.

While organized as a DX club, NADXC members are active in all aspects of the hobby. We trust that this information will be of interest to all and hope all hams have a long and pleasant association with the NADXC.

**Requirements for Membership:** The NADXC welcomes all hams radio operators who have an interest in DXing. It does not matter whether you are a new ham, a seasoned ham operator, an old-timer to DXing, or a ham who has just been hit with the DX bug; everyone is welcome! See the club website: [www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org). Dues are paid in January of every year.

**Meetings:** The NADXC club meets the second Tuesday night of every month, with the current location at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) located at 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama and virtually via Zoom. Some members gather early to eat their dinner, socialize, discuss DX worked, and then we have a short business meeting starting at 6:30 P.M. CT. followed by an exciting, interesting program to help, entertain, and teach members about DX and amateur radio in general.

**Club Officers:** There are four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and three elected directors on the NADXC Board of Directors. The current roster of club officers and directors can be seen on the NADXC web site or in the “Longpath” newsletter, which is uploaded each month to the club website.

**Website:** The NADXC club maintains a website at [www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org). This site provides club information and activities throughout the year about a variety of subjects related to the club, DX, and amateur radio.